(c) and (d) There is no scheme to upgrade any of the VLPTs in Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh. However, a scheme for provision of auto switching facility at all the 8 VLPTs in Chhattisgarh (including Jashpumagar) to enable them to relay regional programmes originating from DDK, Raipur during the allocated time slot has been approved. Auto switching facility at above mentioned 8 VLPTs in Chhattisgarh is expected to be provided in about a year's time.

Statement

VLPTs functioning in Chhattisgarh

	Location	Date of commissioning
1.	Bijapur	11.02.1998
2.	Devbhog	09.05.2005
3.	Jashpumagar	27.06.1996
4.	Kondagaon	28.06.1996
5.	Koylibeda	08.12.1997
6.	Pakhanjore	16.10.1995
7.	Pathalgaon	30.03.2001
8.	Sarangarh	01.07.1998

VLPTs functioning in MP.

	Location	Date of commissioning
1.	Alot	20.09.2001
2.	Budhni	08.11.1995
3.	Diamond mining project	23.03.1997
4.	Parasia	26.10.1994
5.	Singrauli	04.12.1997

Faulty T.V. transmitters in rural and backward areas

2943. SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE:
SHRIVINAYKATIYAR:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of complaints especially from rural and backward areas have been received in regard to faulty functioning of T.V. transmitters during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(c) the action taken by Government to ensure fault-free functioning of T.V. transmitters?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI) (a) and (b) Performance of TV transmitters in Doordarshan Network is generally satisfactory though complaints of malfunctioning of some transmitters are received from time to time. No centralised data is maintained in this regard.

(c) All efforts are made by Doordarshan to attend to the complaint, promptly. However, in the case of Very Low Power Transmitters, which are unmanned installations, it takes some time to attend to the complaints, as maintenance staff has to be sent from the nearby maintenance centres.

Private participation in setting up of FM Radio stations

2944. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to permit private companies to set up FM Radio stations in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the private companies permitted to set up FM Radio stat" ns along with the number of stations allotted to these companies;

(c) the details of the cities where these radio stations are proposed to be set up, State-wise; and

(d) the time schedule allowed to these companies for establishment of radio stations?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI) (a) Yes, Sir. In 1999, the Government decided to allow private companies to set up FM radio stations in the country.

(b) The requisite details are at Statement-I (See below).

(c) The State-wise details are at Statement-I' *(See* below).